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EOC Spot Report Update # 3: Region 6, Fire at International Terminal Corporation, Deer Park, TX (NRC# 1240304 and 1240312)

**US Environmental Protection Agency
Report as of March 19, 2019 9:20 EDT**

Overview: On March 17, the Region 6 Phone Duty Officer was notified by the NRC (1240304) about the fire at International Terminal Corporation (ITC) in Deer Park, Houston TX. The fire reportedly started around 10:30 am. According to the NRC report one of the tanks containing naphtha has caught on fire, the total capacity of the tank is 80,000 barrels. ITC DEER PARK has issued an evacuation order of 5 miles radius and has engaged in firefighting shore side. City of Deer Park, TX has also issued a shelter in place order. There have been no injuries reported.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: Coast Guard Station Houston and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) are on scene. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) plume modeling indicated that it would not affect the Houston Ship Channel. An Incident Command Post has been stood up, and Sector Houston Galveston representatives are en route to assist.

EPA Actions: EPA and START mobilized on March 17 and entered Unified Command with TCEQ, Harris County Pollution Control Services Department (HCPCS), and ITC. EPA START and ITC continued air monitoring throughout the night in the vicinity and downwind. Particulates were detected just southwest of the facility, but no readings above action levels. No readings of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) or other constituents were detected.

At 1545 local Region 6 activated ASPECT to provide airborne sensing. The ASPECT aircraft measured no significant detections in the vicinity and downwind of the incident. The Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) bus is expected to arrive on site by March 21st. Instantaneous monitoring of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) continues to be conducted by the responsible party.

As of noon on March 18, the Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health (CTEH) had taken 153 readings for VOCs. There are readings above health action levels. HCPCS is conducting air monitoring to address complaints that have been received by their office. Two EPA START teams have completed air monitoring around the 14 identified Superfund NPL sites

in Harris County to determine any effects of the plume at those sites, as well as taking readings downwind from the fire in various areas. No detections were identified. ITC continues to take hourly water samples at the ditch feeding into Tucker Bayou and sending the samples to an outside laboratory for analysis. Initial results are expected to become available between Wednesday and Friday. There is boom deployed in the ditch to capture the foam. Traces of foam have been observed in the ditch and Tucker Bayou by the U.S. Coast Guard.

As of 0200 hours on March 19, 8 tanks containing gasoline blends, toluene, naphtha, xylenes, pyrolysis gasoline, and blended oils were involved in the fire, within the firewall. Three tanks (including 2 empty) are believed to have collapsed at this time.

Both the Deer Park and La Porte Independent School Districts have re-opened at normal times on March 19.

Media Interest: High

<https://abc7.com/itc-deer-park-plant-fire-spreads-to-6-more-tanks-/5202297/>

<https://www.abcactionnews.com/news/national/firefighters-battle-massive-fire-at-itc-petrochemical-plant-in-deer-park-texas>

<http://www.fox4news.com/news/texas/shelter-in-place-called-for-in-deer-park-fire-at-itc-facility>

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed

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